

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: GR, TV, PLOS, OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: GREEK AND TURKISH READINESS

FROM HABIB AND SAUNDERS

1. AS GREECE AND TURKEY CONTINUE THEIR DIPLOMATIC SPARRING, WE THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL TO YOU TO HAVE THE LATEST AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE ON THE INCREASED STATES OF READINESS OF THEIR ARMED FORCES.

2. OUR KNOWLEDGE OF THE EXTENT OF THEIR PREPARATION IS INCOMPLETE, BUT IN THE JUDGMENT OF WASHINGTON MILITARY ANALYSTS, THE FORCES OF BOTH COUNTRIES ARE NOW ABOUT MID-WAY FROM NORMAL READINESS TO THE STATE REQUIRED FOR A WAR FOOTING. NO MOBILIZATION HAS YET TAKEN PLACE ON EITHER SIDE. LEAVES HAVE BEEN RESTRICTED IN SOME COMPONENTS, BUT,

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SO FAR AS WE KNOW, LEAVES HAVE NOT BEEN CANCELLED. BOTH

SIDES HAVE INCREASED TROOP DEPLOYMENTS NEAR THEIR FRONTIERS, BUT REPORTING FROM OUR DEFENSE ATTACHES IN BOTH COUNTRIES INDICATES THAT THE MOOD REMAINS RELATIVELY RELAXED.

3. MORE DETAILED DATA ON INDIVIDUAL SERVICE ACTIVITIES FOLLOWS:

--(A) GREECE PUT ITS AIR FORCE ON "ALERT" EARLY ON AUGUST 9, AND AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS APPEARS TO BE WORKING MORE THAN NORMAL HOURS. ON THE OTHER HAND, HALF THE GREEK SUB-MARINES ARE NOW IN PORT (LAST WEEK, MORE WERE OUT OF PORT). MORE GREEK DESTROYERS ARE NOW IN PORT THAN WERE A WEEK AGO. THE GREEK ARMY IS IN A STATE OF READINESS SOMEWHAT HIGHER THAN NORMAL, WITH HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITY NORMAL.

--(B) IN TURKEY SOME UNITS OF THE FIRST TACTICAL AIR FORCE ARE ON A SPECIAL 10-MINUTE REACTION ALERT STATUS TO COME TO THE DEFENSE OF THE SISMIK. THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN SOME TROOP DEPLOYMENTS AND PREPARATIONS FOR DEPLOYMENTS ALONG THE THRACIAN BORDER. A COMMANDO BRIGADE OF 3,000 MEN AND THREE INFANTRY REGIMENTS HAVE BEEN DEPLOYED AT UNKNOWN LOCATIONS ALONG TURKEY'S AEGEAN COASTS NEAR THE GREEK ISLANDS. WE HAVE NO DETAILS ABOUT THE DEPLOYMENT OF THE TURKISH NAVY, BUT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS AND TURKISH DIPLO-MATIC SOURCES INDICATE THAT NAVAL UNITS ARE ESCORTING THE SISMIK BUT AT A DISTANCE.

4. WE DO NOT HAVE INDEPENDENT INFORMATION ON THE POSITION OF THE SISMIK OR ITS PLANS TO MOVE INTO AN AREA WHICH WOULD REDUCE TENSION. WASHINGTON INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES HAVE NOT LOCATED ITS WHEREABOUTS, POSSIBLY BECAUSE IT IS MAINTAINING RADIO SILENCE. ANY EFFORT AT AERIAL RECON-NAISSANCE WOULD RISK THE APPEARANCE OF U.S. INVOLVEMENT AND, SINCE IT WOULD NOT BE CONTINUOUS, WOULD NOT REVEAL SISMIK'S INTENTIONS. HABIB

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